



# Sevanjali 2012 – Fun With A Purpose



Here now, knocked out later: Hypnotherapist Cameron South works his stuff on volunteers.

By MITHRA NAYAK  
 “Amazing!” “Unbelievable!” “Is that for real?” These were the exclamations heard from a captivated audience at the 6th annual Sevanjali program organized by Chinmaya Mission Los Angeles on Dec. 8 at the Santa Ana High School auditorium.

Dario, the Juggler, was the prequel to the main show and delighted both adults and children. Cameron South, an accomplished performer for over 35 years in Las Vegas and cruise ships, entertained the Chinmaya families and friends by hypnotizing over twenty volunteers on stage.

One of the volunteers, Sameer Murali, excited the crowd by not only flexing his muscles as a weight-lifting champion, but also performing the Michael Jackson “moonwalk” with enthusiasm! People laughed and clapped along to the music encouraging him! Another volunteer, Nimish Dave, was hypnotized to forget the number “six” and no matter how hard he tried, he was unable to count from one to ten correctly. He was visibly confused and puzzled. Nimish was however able to converse in an “alien” language known only to him and another volunteer! These acts delighted and amazed the crowd on how Cameron South was able to conduct hypnosis on these volunteers so that they followed his instructions.

Cameron is a hypnotherapist who teaches clients to improve their lives not only by getting rid of their current bad habits, but more importantly, replacing them with positive ones. As Swami Ishwarananda said in his speech to the audience at the top of the show, the comedy- hypnotist would be educative in demonstrating how one can overcome one’s own habits by self-hypnosis that will influence the sub-conscious mind to change.



Above: One forgets how to count the other does a Michael Jackson move.



Astonishing act: Dario the juggler



With the blessings of the parampara: Gurudev Swami Chinmayananda, Swami Ishwarananda, Acharya Mahadevi

Indeed, the concept of emphasizing positive traits over negative traits is taught to over 1,200 children in the Los Angeles area by Chinmaya Mission in weekly Balavihar classes. CMLA member Hemant Mistry spoke about how it is important to impart the Hindu values to children at young age and cited the example of his child who even after graduation keeps in touch with the CHYK group in Boston.



Devoted members make their pitch: (clockwise) Dr. Shashi Acharya, Dr. Manohar Senra, Hemant and Shaila Mistry

Additionally, values of Vedanta and the Hindu culture are taught and nurtured. In order to support the social, educational, and cultural activities of Chinmaya Mission, annual Sevanjali programs have been organized. Part of the proceeds collected also support the on-going Chinmaya Mission projects to aid the poor and marginalized.

During the course of the evening, Dr. Shashi Acharya, Chairman of the Foundation Committee gave the financial status of CMLA highlighting that over 40% of the collection is spent

on paying off the mortgage and only 7% of the income is used for administrative purposes. Dr. Manohar Senra, board member of CMLA, while calling for more donations, pointed out to the audience that the beneficiary of the activities in CMLA was the contributor itself.

Over \$350,000 was collected during the Sevanjali program, but more importantly, the 800 attendees of the program left with a warm feeling of family united in a common goal.

Acharya Mahadevanji thanked the audience for their support and the volunteers for their valuable time.

The emcees of the evening were the younger members of CMLA: Ramya Radhakrishnan, Shiva Sharma and Suveer.



Young members and emcees: Shiva Sharma, Ramya Radhakrishnan, B. Suveer



Members and friends of CMLA enjoy a quick snack during the event.